## BLACKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE:** December 16, 2004 **CONTACT:** Sgt. J.A. Bowyer, Jr

(540) 961-1810

**SUBJECT:** Free Child Safety Seats

Blacksburg Police are able to provide free child safety seats thanks to donations from local citizens and businesses.

The Blacksburg Police Department is one of many law enforcement agencies in the New River Valley who check and install child safety seats. The service is free and over 100 seats have been installed thus far during calendar year 2004.

In addition, the Blacksburg Police have been providing child safety seats free to families in financial distress. This program has been made possible by the generous donations of private citizens and local Blacksburg businesses. This year, over 21 seats have been distributed to those in need at a retail value of over \$1,200.00.

The program has been in existence for five years and has served persons from Montgomery, Giles and Pulaski Counties.

"This is a much needed service in our community," said Bowyer. "Without the assistance of our residents and businesses we would be unable to provide seats to those in need, and helping to keep our children safe is a very high priority. We're very grateful for the support we've received."

Officer Cole further states, "We often get referrals from other police departments and service agencies to supply a child seat to someone. The program isn't limited to Blacksburg. It's for anyone in need."

For more information about donations, to make an appointment for an installation or to obtain a child safety seat, please contact Officer David Cole, Police Operations Division (540) 961-1150, or Sgt. J.A. Bowyer, Jr., Police Services Division, (540) 961-1810.